

UTAH

# Agriculture

NEWS

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## Grazing Improvement Program (GIP) Protects The Environment And Improves Utah's Rural Economy

For decades no one person has been in a position to speak for, or represent, the interests of Utah's livestock industry during the debate over rangeland issues. Under a UDAF proposal, the position of "rangeland specialist" would be created to carry out this important responsibility.

Utah cattle and sheep ranchers depend on the state's 11 million acres of private and public lands as a grazing resource. Utah's livestock industry contributes more than \$600 million to Utah's economy. The addition of a rangeland specialist is one of several features of the newly introduced Grazing Improvement Program (GIP).

*The following are comments by Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham, regarding his proposal to create the GIP Program..*

Utah's Livestock Industry is the largest single sector of Utah's Agricultural economy. We have the opportunity to help expand that sector and improve our rural economy. Improving rangeland also protects the environment in many ways, including inhibiting the start and spread of costly range fires.

I believe the UDAF and ranchers need to play a more significant role in solutions. The challenge is that grazing lands are negatively impacted by invasive species such as weeds, insects, pinion-juniper, cheat grass, and other problem grasses.

The involvement of the livestock industry in the Public Land Policy debate, at times, is limited by a variety of factors such as: lack of time by individual ranchers; organized grazing committees lack authority and staff support; and poor access to support from the State of Utah.

At this time the UDAF does not have the program, expertise or staff to offer assistance to ranchers. As a result, rural community economies are being hurt.

One of the solution is to create the Grazing Improvement Program (GIP). It would empower and reorganizing the existing Grazing Committees such as the Regional Taylor Grazing Boards and the Utah Grazing Network. It will give them authority to advise the State over all grazing issues as well as improve range conditions and range rehabilitation. Our range specialist would be able to offer a voice during the debate over public lands policy Issues.

### The GIP Program

The GIP program will be lead by a range specialist and assisted by a policy analysts and a rangeland scientist. The program will provide staff support for the grazing committees and offer sound information regarding grazing issues. Information will flow both ways between the Department of Agriculture and Food and the livestock industry.

*"In agriculture we believe in a stewardship obligation to our resources. We expect to leave our resources in better condition than when we received them."*

Leonard Blackham,  
Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

The Program has three major components:

- Expand the authority and ability of regional and state grazing boards to impact federal management plans and current range-land issues. Input from the boards, USU extension and research by the staff will formulate suggestions to the Governor's Office for official state positions on grazing issues for federal and state agencies.
- Through a coordinated effort, GIP will expand the number of projects that rehabilitate our natural resources, increase productivity and protect the landscape for all Utahns. The benefits include increased water quality and quantity, added wildlife and livestock capacity, and better weed control; all of which will strengthen our rural economy.
- A revision of NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). Work for a process that continues to make land management discussions that are "open" but are more reasonable, affordable and effective in addressing the impacts of invasive species and productive capacity of rangeland and watersheds. GIP must find ways to stop wasting resources on frivolous legal maneuvering. It must bring opponents into the discussion from the beginning. We want federal agencies that are "can do" rather than "can't do" agencies of today. Proper management is more than no action. The lengthy delays that often occur only allow the invasive species to destroy our landscapes.

The past 30 years of fighting over land use issues is now starting to show negative results such as dead forests, severe wildfires, diminished watersheds, and low renewable capacity of the living resources of the land.

The Grazing Improvement Program will work to reverse such negative trends by offering a cooperative effort that will include all parties who have a "can do" interest in improving Utah's grazing resources.

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Commissioner's Message

Dear friends of agriculture.

It has been a wonderful and eye opening year for me as your new Commissioner of Agriculture and Food. I inherited a first class State agency that was well organized by my predecessor, Cary Peterson.

This has been an exciting year for Utah agriculture. Beef prices hit all-time highs and conditions were good for most other commodities as well. Net farm income grew by an astounding 45 percent due to these strong prices for livestock and crops. Farm income is forecast to continue growing for the rest of 2005.

I am making three programs a priority -- marketing agricultural products, conservation and noxious weeds.

I created a new Marketing division that will work to stimulate Utah's rural economy. Making farming profitable is the best way to preserve the farmland and protect our rural quality of life. We are also encouraging Utahns to seek out and purchase Utah grown products through our "Utah's Own" campaign.

In the area of conservation I am expanding our support for livestock grazing on private and public lands. The ecological and economic benefits of grazing are numerous. We will be enhancing our programs and support for the public-private partnership approach. It is our desire to help agriculture interface better on the public land grazing issues and increase restoration efforts on critical rangelands. The results will be healthy watersheds and a more viable livestock industry that supports the rural economy in Utah. The UDAF is also taking the lead to help our poultry, hog and dairy sectors in the new clean air requirements coming from the U.S. EPA.

My third priority is limiting the growth of noxious weeds in the state. These invasive plant species are doing considerable harm to the rangeland, and we will be accelerating our efforts to slow, and even halt the spread of these weeds.

I wish to thank you for your interest in Utah agriculture, and I look forward to hearing from you on these and any other agricultural topic.

Sincerely,

Leonard M. Blackham, Utah  
Commissioner of Agriculture and Food



Agriculture Advisory Board

Focus on: Arthur Douglas  
Board Chairman

*Editor's note: Utah Agriculture News will be introducing readers to members of the Agriculture Advisory Board in this column. This article will spotlight Board Chairman Art Douglas.*

Lifelong rancher and Utah Farmers Union President Arthur Douglas is completing his 4th year as Chairman of the Agriculture Advisory Board. During that time art has helped guide the board through issues such as: drought and flooding assistance, federal farm bill legislation support, and increasing the non-farming public's awareness of agriculture.

"I feel it an honor and privilege to serve on the Commissioner-appointed board. This is a diversified group of agricultural and consumer leaders who advise the commissioner on issues pertaining to rural Utah," he said.

"In the past four years that I have been chair, we have sent numerous letters to our senators and representatives. We also held meetings in different parts of the state such as: Moroni Feed Plant, Circle 4 Hog Farms, USU, BYU, and Park City to involve our locally elected officials," Art added.

**Background**

The board is created by State Code which currently calls for 13 members representing the

following agriculture industries and interests: Utah Farm Bureau Federation; Utah Farmers Union; Utah Cattlemen's Association; Utah Wool Growers' Association; Utah Dairymen's Association; Utah Pork Producer's Association; Utah Veterinary Medical Association; Livestock

Auction Marketing Association; Utah Association of Conservation Districts; Utah horse industry; the food processing industry; manufacturers of food supplements; and a consumer affairs group.

During the past few years, the Board has offered its support for a number of important agriculture issues, such as: increased Congressional funding for cricket and grasshopper control, non-fat dry milk drought assistance, and emergency livestock disaster assistance.

"It is our responsibility to have an open policy no matter what political affiliation held by board members. My goal and directive is to have every consumer, producer and agricultural organization in Utah to be aware that there is an Ag. Advisory Board," Art added.

Art encourages readers with concerns about agriculture to contact him through the Utah Farmers Union at: [ufu@xmission.com](mailto:ufu@xmission.com).



Art Douglas,  
Chairman, Agriculture  
Advisory Board



## 2005 UDAF Annual Report and USDA Statistics Now Available

The 2005 USDA Agricultural Statistics and Utah Department of Agriculture and Food's Annual Report are now available. The two reports document the state's agricultural production levels and offer details about the numerous UDAF programs. The reports are also produced on CD ROM disks that are included with the hard cover version. The UDAF also makes both reports available on the Internet at: [www.ag.utah.gov](http://www.ag.utah.gov).

### Highlights from 2005 Annual Report

Commissioner Blackham quickly moved to reorganize the Department by re-establishing a separate division of Marketing whose focus is to promote Utah-grown agricultural products and thus Utah's rural producers. The division's first major campaign promoted the "Utah's Own" theme where shoppers can quickly identify local products by the distinctive Utah's Own logo.

The department and its seven divisions employ numerous programs to support the following goals:

- To ensure a safe, wholesome and sustainable food supply.
- Improve water, soil and air quality to help conserve resources and enhance production.
- Respect and serve our customers and employees. Enhance the economic vitality of our agricultural communities.



The department redesigned its official seal. The logo now simply depicts a sprouting seed that signifies the miracle of life and agriculture. The design includes the state's borders with the department's initials, U-D-A-F. The logo will soon be incorporated into official correspondence, as well as the department's internet home page and publications.

Commissioner Blackham is making three programs a priority:

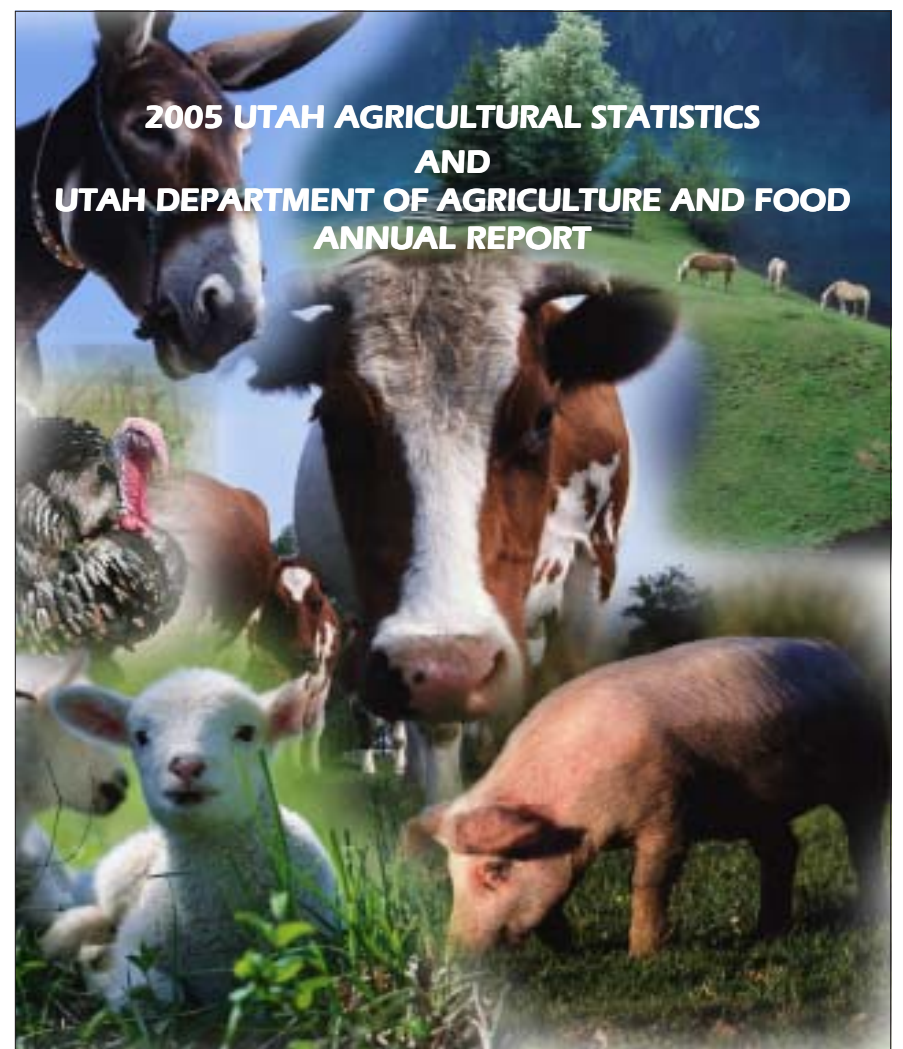
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Conservation
- ◆ Invasive Noxious Weeds

The Marketing and Development division is working to stimulate Utah's rural economy. Making farming profitable is the best way to preserve farmland and protect our rural quality of life. The department's new "Utah's Own" campaign encourages Utahns to seek out and purchase Utah-grown products.

Conservation, Commissioner Blackham is expanding support for livestock grazing on private and public lands. The ecological and economic benefits of grazing are numerous. He is stressing a public-private partnership approach with groups such as the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Utah Department of Natural Resources and the Bureau of Land Management. This partnership will help rehabilitate rangelands.

Noxious weed control is the department's third priority program. Economic losses from weeds exceed \$20 billion annually in the U.S., and the cost continues to grow. These invasive plant species are doing considerable harm to the rangeland and the Department will be accelerating its efforts to slow and even halt the spread of these weeds.

The prevention of the spread of West Nile Virus (WNV) to horses and humans is one of the goals of the Division of Plant Industry and the Division of Animal Industry. The department now has an ongoing program that will grant more than \$300,000 to counties to expand or create new mosquito abatement districts in an effort to increase mosquito spraying and WNV education.



The threat of agriterrorism and the possible introduction of a foreign animal disease or pest into the United States make biosecurity a top priority for the department and its seven divisions.

As a result of the discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as mad cow disease, in the US, the Division of Animal Industry took part in a national program that tested certain cattle for the disease. Utah tested more than 4,600 cattle. No BSE was detected in Utah. The division also strictly enforces the ban on feeding meat and bone meal to ruminants, which is an important safeguard in the prevention of the spread of BSE.

Commissioner Blackham initiated a series of town meetings across the state called "Open Forum with the Commissioner." The forums are designed to allow Utah farmers and ranchers to meet personally with the commissioner to discuss agricultural issues.



The first meetings were held in Duchesne, Uintah, Duchesne, Grand, San Juan, Box Elder, Iron, and Wasatch Counties.

In an effort to bolster the economic vitality of rural Utah, the department is undertaking a public education program designed to promote the wide ranging benefits of livestock grazing. Various reports and studies confirm that properly managed grazing practices improve watersheds, stimulate a variety of plant species, control soil erosion, and create natural fire breaks on rangeland and other areas. Grazing also makes use of one of Utah's largest natural resources, its open rangelands. Livestock that graze on public and private lands is viewed by many as a scenic benefit to their outdoor experience.

The department is working to ensure long term stability and competency in its workforce by updating the compensation offered its employees. A strategy is in place that will help eliminate wasteful employee turnover where valuable resources are spent on the training of personnel who eventually take those skills to higher paying positions at other government agencies.





# Utah's Own Products On Display During Buy Local Campaign

Emigration Market hosts food demonstrations

Students give parents the Utah's Own pop quiz

Salt Lake City's Emigration Market is considered a premier Utah's Own grocery store. They earn that title because they carry more than 60 Utah's Own food products, and continually try to carry as many new Utah products as possible. To be eligible for the Utah's Own name, products must be locally grown or produced. The store is currently decorated with Utah's Own shelf markers that clearly identify which products are Utah's Own qualified.

In conjunction with the event, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Uintah and Bonneville Elementary Schools received a "Utah's Own" pop quiz to take home and give to their parents. When the parents "pass" the test, the students were awarded a Utah's Own report card that they can proudly display in their home. Dozens of students and parents returned the completed quiz to the Emigration Market and received a free Spotted Dog ice cream cone.

The focus of the campaign is to introduce shoppers to the Utah's Own program and Utah produced foods.

"We're trying to raise the awareness of Utah shoppers to the fact that there are a number of Utah made products in our stores. Buying local products helps support our local food companies and Utah family farmers," said Jed Christenson, UDAF Marketing Director.

Emigration Market's owner, J.T. Martin is an innovator in attracting local business people as suppliers for his store. UDAF deputy marketing directors Richard Sparks and Seth Winterton coordinated the campaign and say this is an excellent tool to create awareness of Utah products and teach children the importance of Utah agriculture. To join the Utah's Own program, visit: <http://utahsown.utah.gov/signup.html>

(above) Some of the many Utah's Own shelf markers on display at Salt Lake City's Emigration Market, located at 1706 East 1300 South.. The promotion attracted many local students who gave their parents a Utah's Own pop quiz. Can you answer the 12 questions?

Answers to Utah's Own Quiz

1. F, 2. T, 3. F, 4. T, 5. T, 6. T, 7. F, 8. T, 9. T, 10. T, 11. T, 12. F.

Utah's Own Pop Quiz

Arithmetic	T	F
The low prices paid for products in Utah stores is the real cost of the product.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When you spend a dollar on locally produced products, you add another \$1.50 to the Utah economy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading		
It is difficult to read product labels to see where the product is produced.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When you see the Utah's Own logo on store shelves, it means that the product was produced locally.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing		
Writing checks for Utah's Own products is pure poetry.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing a shopping list for Utah's Own products is helpful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geography		
It is difficult to find Utah's Own products on store shelves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are over twenty Farmers Markets featuring Utah produce from Cache Valley to Moab.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civics		
Buying Utah's Own products is good citizenship.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We export Utah tax revenues outside the state when we fail to purchase Utah produced products.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical Education		
It is good exercise walking store aisles looking for Utah's Own products.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Science		
It's rocket science to find Utah's Own products on store shelves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature

Email address

## Snapshot of Utah Agriculture

### Number of farms

15,282 farms in 2002, 15,810 farms in 1997, down 3 percent.

### Land in farms

11,731,228 acres in 2002, 12,008,137 acres in 1997 down 2 percent.

### Average size of farm

768 acres in 2002, 760 acres in 1997, up 1 percent.

### Market Value of Production

\$1,115,898,000 in 2002, \$888,579,000 in 1997, up 26 percent. Crop sales accounted for \$257,797,000 of the total value in 2002. Livestock sales accounted for \$858,101,000 of the total value in 2002.

### Market Value of Production -- average per farm

\$73,020 in 2002, \$56,204 in 1997, up 30 percent.

### Government Payments

\$26,669,000 in 2002, \$15,958,000 in 1997, up 67 percent.

### Government Payments --

### average per farm receiving payments

\$8,928 in 2002, \$6,600 in 1997, up 35 percent.

## Cabbage Patch Doll



Commissioner Blackham presented nine-year old Mykell Swartz of Layton with a \$1,000 scholarship from Bonnie Plant Farm of Boise, Idaho. Mykell won first place in the company's first Bonnie Scholarship competition after growing a 38 pound cabbage in her grandfather's garden. The commissioner, along with (left) Teresa Schwisow of Bonnie Plant Farm, and Mykell's mother Shalie, presented the award during an assembly at Lincoln Elementary School in Layton. Mykell said her secret to growing a large cabbage was to "water it, fertilize it and keep the bugs off."

The Bonnie Corporation sent information and an invitation to participate in the program to each third grade school in Utah. Bonnie responds to each school and third grade class who indicated they would like



A \$1,000 cabbage. Nine-year old Mykell Swartz of Layton grew this 38 lb. 8 oz. cabbage to win first place in the first Bonnie Scholarship contest.

to participate by delivering one O. S. Cross cabbage plant to each third grade student. All students selected are then put into a drawing for a chance to win a one thousand dollar scholarship.

If your student or school would like to participate contact: Gary Schwisow, Utah/Idaho Station Manager, Melba, ID, 208-896-4229.



## Animal Industry Completes Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan

Avian Influenza (AI) is a disease of increasing worldwide importance with growing implications as a human disease threat. And the potential for low pathogenic varieties of AI to mutate to highly pathogenic strains, affecting domestic poultry, is significant.

In response to the increasing threat posed by Avian Influenza, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has drafted a comprehensive Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan.

The following are basic facts regarding what measures are being taken to protect Utah poultry and the public from Avian Influenza.

- Utah does not have Avian Influenza in its bird population.
- There are no cases in the US of the “high-path” strain of AI that can infect humans.
- The Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) works closely with the poultry industry and the Division of Wildlife Resources to prevent the introduction of AI.
- State and federal meat inspectors are on-sight at packing plants, looking for signs of infected birds.
- State and private practice veterinarians are on alert for birds showing signs of bird flu (diarrhea, nasal discharge, decreased egg production, lack of energy and appetite, etc.) or any dead or dying birds.
- The UDAF has two Animal Diagnostic Laboratories (Logan, Nephi) that are specially equipped to test dead or dying birds that might have Avian Influenza.
- The UDAF has just completed an Avian Influenza Surveillance and Response Plan that is a comprehensive document that spells out what we should do to prevent AI from entering the state. It also spells out what we would do if we get Avian Influenza in Utah.



- The Response Plan requires:
- Mandatory testing of select birds in commercial bird flocks.
  - Any birds brought into the state...either for commercial or domestic purposes...must have a health certificate issued by a vet. from the previous location.
  - Employees of commercial growers cannot own pet birds, or handle birds from other areas.
  - The UDAF offers outreach educate to owners of backyard flocks how to protect their animals.
  - The consequences of an outbreak would be severe to the industry that generates \$100 million a year to our economy, and employs hundreds of people.
  - The introduction of AI into Utah could possibly come through wild migrating birds, rather than the commercial poultry population.
  - It's possible that a wild bird would come in contact with a commercial poultry farm and deposit manure in a pen, or have direct physical contact with the domestic bird. Protection results from housing of birds.
  - In 1995 an AI outbreak occurred in Utah when migrating waterfowl came in contact with infected poultry near Mexico City. The waterfowl then made their way to a central Utah lake located near a turkey farm.
  - Two million Turkeys were affected. 25 percent of them died.
- More information about AI is available at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet\\_faqs\\_notice/fs\\_ahai.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/pubs/fsheet_faqs_notice/fs_ahai.html)

## Unused Farm Pesticides Sought For Collection

### POPULAR PROGRAM TO RESUME IN SPRING

Utah farmers and ranchers are encouraged to dispose their unused or outdated pesticide during a free program that is offered this coming March. The popular program has collected more than 70 tons of unused pesticide from dozens of farmers throughout the state. In order for the UDAF to better coordinate the pickup of the pesticide, farmers and ranchers must identify how much and what kind of material the have.

"This is a totally anonymous program," said Robert Hougaard, program manager. "No record of your name is kept after the program, and you are free from any risk of cost or penalty." He added.

Citizens are requested to bring the unwanted pesticide to a central location in their region, as soon as that location is identified. Licensed hazardous waste disposal companies, under contract with the state, will pick up the product and destroy them. To sign up for the program, contact Robert Hougaard at (801) 538-7187.

The program began in 1993 by collecting about 11,500 pounds of product at a cost of about \$51,000. Eight years later, with the help of experience and state contracted vendors, the Division collected 27,700 pounds of material at a cost of \$40,463. The cost per pound dropped by nearly 60 percent.

One reason for its popularity is that it saves farmers and ranchers hundreds, if not thousands of dollars in disposal fees as well as considerable paperwork.

*Employees of a chemical disposal company weigh and inventory unwanted pesticides collected during a UDAF free pesticide collection program in 2000. The popular program will again be offered in March of 2006.*



## Trichomoniasis Program Saves Utah Cattle Ranchers \$6 million

### Program Removes Infected Bulls From Herds

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food was requested by the Utah Cattlemen's Association in 1997 to enact regulations requiring all bulls entering the state and all bulls going to common grazing allotments to be tested for Trichomoniasis. The success of that program prompted the cattlemen to seek the help of the Utah Legislature during the 2000 session to require testing of all bulls statewide. The program was initially funded at a level of \$40,000 that year. Approximately 5,000 bulls were tested and 156 were found positive.

The cattlemen and the legislature felt it necessary in 2004 to establish fines for non-compliance with the regulations. The Department enacted regulations that year requiring a fine of \$200 for all bulls that were not tested by May 31 and a fine of \$500 for bulls that were exposed to female cattle without being tested. The result was that in 2005, nearly 17,000 bulls were tested and only 50 were found positive. Ninety five percent of all Utah bulls were tested last year.

The incidence of Trichomoniasis has fallen in Utah from an estimated\* 5% in 1999 to 0.3% during the last seven years since the program began. The value of this program may be illustrated as follows, assuming that each infected bull will fail to settle 20 cows and each unborn calf is worth \$450:

	<u>5% infection rate</u>	<u>.3% infection rate</u>
Number of bulls tested =	17,000	17,000
Incidence of Trichomoniasis =	<u>.05</u>	<u>.003</u>
Number of positive bulls =	850	51
Open cows per positive bull =	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
Number of unborn calves =	17,000	1020
Value of each calf =	<u>\$450</u>	<u>\$450</u>
Loss due to Trichomoniasis	-\$7,650,000	- \$459,000
Cost of testing @\$25/bull		- \$425,000
Cost under the program		- \$884,000

Benefit to the Industry created by the program = \$6,766,000  
[\* Surveys in several western states including one done in Utah have indicated a general prevalence rate of 5% in states without control programs.]  
The above example is only an illustration of the potential value of the program. Even at an incidence of 2-3% the savings would be in the 3-4 million dollar range. Many factors of unknown magnitude would impact actual numbers but the message is clear. **It pays to test all bulls for trichomoniasis.** A good manager will quickly see this but may still be at risk if his neighbor fails to test also.

The program has been unfunded in recent years and the demands of the program have greatly increased with the increased level of testing being done. In recognition of the value of this program, the Governor, at the urging of Commissioner Leonard M. Blackham and State Veterinarian Michael R. Marshall, DVM, has included a recommendation for an additional veterinarian in his budget proposal to administer this program along with other programs.

River Pollution Reduced By Agriculture  
Animal Feeding Operation Program

After a little more than five years of planning, assessment and implementation Utah’s Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) water pollution control program is starting to show significant results.

A recent report shows pollution loading reductions of up to 90 percent from the first round of AFO manure management projects in Utah. Total nitrogen in selected test waters showed a drop from 26,013 to 1,405 pounds, and a drop of phosphorus from 9,431 to 576 pounds.

"These are the kinds of results we can achieve when our agriculture groups and farmers work together for a common goal," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Leonard Blackham.

The project is being coordinated by the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, the Utah Farm Bureau, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and the Utah Division of Water Quality.

One operator that has completed restoration work is Utah County dairy owner Jon Beck. Beck’s operation went from 453 lbs to 57 lbs. of Nitrogen and from 221 lbs Phosphorus to 28 lbs. of Phosphorus. Beck wasn’t certain he wanted to take part in the program but he knew he had to do something.

“This program came out and I thought I may as well take advantage of it and make sure it’s done right,” he admitted. Like many other Utah farmers and ranchers who have participated in the program to this point, Beck has become a big supporter of the work.

“I’d advise anybody that’s got a problem to fix it and cooperate with these guys,” he said.



Left: Jon Beck’s feedlot before participating in the program. The edge of the corral went to the edge of the river bank. There was little room and little vegetation to slow the flow of polluted runoff. Right: After implementation. A berm is in place along the riverbank and the corral has been moved 30 yards back from the Spanish Fork River.

UDAF Theft Investigator Uses 21st Century  
Skills To Prevent Old-Time Cattle Rustling

The equipment has changed quite a bit over time but the goal remains the same; stop thieves from rustling cattle and other Utah livestock. As prices for cattle increase, so do the number of livestock theft cases. A 500 pound calf can sell for as much as \$750 when market conditions are right. That makes a tempting prize for 21st century cattle rustlers.

At the request of the Utah Legislature the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food hired a range rider/theft investigator. On Sept. 1st, 2005, the Division of Animal Industry hired John Kimball of Meadow, Utah (Millard Co.) as the department's Livestock Theft Investigator.

Since that time, Kimball has assisted in the arrest of two suspects charged with livestock theft. He also has six other cases pending. His first arrest came in October when he helped recover two calves reported stolen from a Duchesne County ranch.

His duties are to assist ranchers and local law enforcement officers with the prevention and investigation of livestock theft of animals located on public as well as private lands. For example, Kimball is currently investigating the loss of 12 head of missing Holstein heifers in San Pete County, 40 head of range cattle in Grand County, and seven head of beef cattle in San Pete County.

Kimball is a 20-plus year law enforcement veteran with experience as a sheriff's sergeant and former Utah Highway Patrol Trooper from Millard County.

Livestock Brands  
Renewal Deadline  
Extended To Feb.

Thousands of livestock owners must renew their brands by February 15, 2006, or face the possibility of someone else filing for that brand. Livestock owners should have received a notice in the mail of the renewal process. For more information, contact the UDAF Brand Bureau at (801) 538-7137.



John Kimball, UDAF Livestock Theft Investigator.

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